

Aug 14 2019

United States District Court
Northern District of Ohio
General Order**AMENDED GENERAL ORDER NO. 2009-21****UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**IN RE: CELLPHONES, CAMERAS,
LAPTOPS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC
DEVICES IN U.S. COURTHOUSES)
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ORDER NO. 2009-21-2

This Order applies to all participants in the courtroom, including spectators. This Order also acknowledges and reaffirms the Court's policy set forth in Local Rule 83.1 prohibiting "the taking of photographs, recording, or broadcasting by any electronic device including cellular phones, cameras, radio, television, or other means" in a Federal Court facility.

Absent approval from the presiding judicial officer, all electronic devices must be turned off prior to entering courtrooms, and cell phones may be used to make phone calls from outside the courtrooms only. Counsel of record may use laptops at the counsel tables provided that the rules prohibiting photography, recording, and broadcasting are not violated.

Judicial officers have the authority to prohibit cell phones, hand-held devices, and laptop computers capable of taking, recording, storing and/or transmitting audio, photo and/or video-data from their courtroom and chambers.

Judicial officers, the United States Marshal and deputies, court security officers, and any other federal security force authorized by law have the authority to enforce this Rule.

(A) Confiscation. Authorized personnel may confiscate any cellular telephone, camera, or other electronic device being used in violation of this rule. Confiscated devices will not be returned until the conclusion of all proceedings at the direction of the presiding judicial officer.

(B) Dismissal. Any violation of this Rule may result in the immediate dismissal or exclusion of the offending individual.

(C) Sanction. Violators may be subject to sanction for contempt of court.

This Order supersedes all previously issued General Orders regarding electronic devices in Federal Court facilities.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT



Patricia A. Gaughan
Chief Judge